



NEWSLETTER

Bringing Township High School District 211 News to the Community ● October 2020

2020-2021 D211 College Night information

The 2020-2021 District 211 College Night program will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The event is open to all High School District 211 students and their parents. This year, in observance of health and safety guidelines, College Night will be conducted online and will offer a set of live sessions with representatives from some of the most attended post-secondary institutions by D211 graduates including Harper College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago and other out of state institutions. Students and parents also will be able to access video links to an even wider array of institutions across the country to further aid in the college search process. Additional information on the 2020-2021 College Night program will be available in October.

District 211 will hold its annual First Generation College Symposium on September 30, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. As with many other events throughout 2020, this year's event will be held virtually and will consist of a series of brief videos outlining

various topics, followed by webinars where panelists will discuss details of the college application experience. Attendees will then be able to ask questions. Each panel will last approximately 20 minutes. Additional information on the First Generation College Symposium is available on the District 211 website at: <https://adc.d211.org/Page/7910>.

The 2020-2021 Directions College & Career Fair, hosted through collaboration between Districts 211, 214, 220, St. Viator High School, and Harper College, will be held online on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. This event is open to students with disabilities and their parents and assists in identifying a variety of post-secondary college and career options. This year's Fair will offer a live keynote panel featuring representatives from Lincoln College and the University of Iowa's UI Reach Program. Students and parents also will have access to literature and videos from partnering college and career representatives on the Directions College & Career Fair website (www.directionscollegeandcareerfair.org).

District 211 Equity Team

The High School District 211 Board of Education has created the District 211 Equity Team. The team, which will be led by a committee of staff members, students, parents, Board of Education liaisons and community members, will be responsible for a variety of tasks which will work to promote equity across the District.

Among its responsibilities, the team will be tasked with including and affirming the voices of students, staff and families from the District community, defining the organizational priorities and practices that contribute to equity across District 211,

and creating an equity plan that will drive short- and long-term systematic changes and improvements with the community.

The committee will work through a four-phase structure to create the District's Equity Plan. Meetings for phase 1 began in August 2020. At the conclusion of phase 4 in June 2021, the committee will present the new District 211 Strategic Equity Plan to the Board of Education.

Additional information and updates on the District 211 Equity Team are available on the District 211 website at <https://adc.d211.org/Page/7899>.

No first semester final exams

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and this school year's remote learning class schedule, course final examinations will not be administered at the end of first semester as regularly scheduled for Wednesday, December 16; Thursday, December 17; or Friday, December 18, 2020. Students final course grades will be based upon achievement and performance in class, as well as on assignments and other examinations throughout the semester.

A message from the Superintendent ...

Preparations for Hybrid Scenario underway

Thank you for completing the online survey to commit to your learning preference for the remainder of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Your choice to either commit your child(ren) to be physically present in school or to continue with remote learning was recorded in our system per family, not per student. If you have more than one child attending a District 211 school and need to make a different individual selection for each child, please contact your high school's Student Services office directly.

When all parents have made a commitment through the survey, our school personnel will conduct a classroom-by-classroom analysis for each course to ensure that we can implement our 50% hybrid model with students spaced six feet apart as a minimum. The details of this model were originally presented to students and parents during the summer, and implementation remains the same for our upcoming transition. Students who committed to being physically present in school will attend in-person for one full week followed by remote learning for one full week. This pattern will continue until current guidelines either allow a traditional school schedule or we are forced to return to a full remote option.

If our number of in-person commitments is too great to allow for six feet of social distancing in each classroom in a 50% hybrid model rotation, either an alternate percentage of students or alternate rotation pattern will be developed. If needed, this alternate plan would be presented at the October 15th Board of Education meeting in preparation for implementation as early as the week of October 26th. A summary of the metrics used to determine the opening of in-person instruction as presented to the Board is available here: <https://adc.d211.org/2020-2021-School-Year-Update-BOE-9-17-2020>.

As a reminder, our hybrid scenario is designed so that our teachers are simultaneously teaching students who have committed to physically attend school at the same time they

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Did you know ...

Make sure High School District 211 is represented in the Census. Complete the Census today online at 2020census.gov, by calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish), or texting "Census" to 987987.

Preparations underway ...

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are teaching students who remain remote through Zoom. This model allows for in-person connections for students who have chosen to be physically present while still maintaining the delivery of curriculum for students who chose to continue learning through remote means.

As we work to analyze the commitment survey results and conduct a classroom-by-classroom analysis of our courses, we encourage students to utilize our afternoon academic support sessions and participate in afterschool activities and athletics through both in-person and virtual means.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through details surrounding opening our schools for in-person classes. As you can imagine, the logistics involved with collecting survey responses, analyzing each of our classrooms, and potentially returning thousands of students to our school buildings are immense. In order to ensure that our teachers are fully prepared to implement our hybrid learning model, we have scheduled an Illinois State Board of Education-approved Teacher Institute Day on Friday, October 16. For your convenience, we have also included “Dates to Remember” in this newsletter for the upcoming six weeks.

Sincerely,



Lisa Small
Superintendent

Dates to Remember

- September 30 1st Generation College Symposium (7:00-8:15 p.m., online event)
- September 30 Directions College & Career Fair (Special Education College & Career Night, online event)
- October 12 Columbus Day – No School
- October 14 State Testing – SAT Exam (seniors as assigned)
- October 15 Board of Education meeting (6:30 p.m. Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Open Meeting; G.A. McElroy Administration Center)
- October 16 Teacher Institute – No Classes
- October 20 D211 College Night (online event)
- October 27 State Testing – SAT Exam (seniors as assigned)
- October 29 PSAT/NMSQT (optional test for juniors)
- November 3 Election Day – No School
- November 9 12-Week In-Progress Grades Recorded

Note: Board meeting dates may be changed by vote of the Board of Education.

 If you require assistance while visiting the G.A. McElroy Administration Center, please contact Matthew Hildebrand, director of administrative services, at 847-755-6626.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center: 847-755-6654.

A.P. courses prepare students to excel

In May 2020, 3,913 students took 8,212 Advanced Placement (A.P.) examinations in one or more of 35 A.P. subjects available in High School District 211. Seventy-seven percent of District 211 examinees earned scores of 3, 4, or 5, which may qualify a student for financial and academic advantages at many colleges and universities, including college credit in that subject. District 211 offers A.P. courses in Art History, Studio Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, Literature and Composition, Language and Composition, Spanish, German, French, Chinese, Music Theory, Research, Seminar, United States History, European History, World History, Human Geography, Economics, Macro-Economics, Statistics, Psychology, Government and Politics, and Computer Science.

“In the spring of 2020, due to the mandatory period of remote learning, students completed Advanced Placement exams online, marking the first time the College Board has implemented an alternative approach to their A.P. assessment process,” commented Mark Kovack, associate superintendent for student services. *“Students, with support from their A.P. teachers, were able to adapt to new conditions and demonstrate a high degree of proficiency with their subject materials. The large number of students earning a 3, 4, or 5 on an A.P. exam illustrates the excellent quality of instruction and preparation students receive as they approach these annual exams.”*

For more information about the Advanced Placement program in District 211, please contact your high school’s Student Services Office.

A reminder about free or reduced-price meals

Applications for free or reduced-price school meals must be completed each school year by any family who is interested in qualifying for meal benefits. Both the online meal application and hard copy versions are available on the District 211 website at: <http://adc.d211.org/Page/6669>. Only one type of application, online or hardcopy, is necessary to submit per household each school year. Please continue to check the District 211 website for the most up-to-date information on meal benefits, or telephone District 211’s Food & Nutrition Services office at 847-755-6681.

Student Directory confidentiality

Parents who want directory information about their sons or daughters to be kept confidential should send their requests in writing to their high school principal.

Directory information includes: student’s name and address, gender, grade level, birth date, and birth place; parents’ names and addresses; academic awards or honors; information relating to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics; and period of high school attendance.

Unless prohibited in writing, directory

information will be provided on request. Most requests come from colleges, universities, armed forces, and area employers.

High School District 211 also maintains permanent and temporary records for each student which remain confidential at all times. These records are kept in compliance with federal and state regulations.

For additional information on student records, please refer to pages 22-23 in your calendar/handbook.

Seventh semester transcripts information

Because few colleges and universities request seventh semester transcripts as a part of the admissions process, seventh semester transcripts will only be sent under the following conditions:

- student is required to submit seventh semester transcript with initial application
- student requests seventh semester transcript be sent to admissions officer to

document entrance that requirements have been met

- college or university requests seventh semester transcript for student who has applied for admission

For more information regarding the sending of transcripts to colleges or universities, please contact your school’s Student Services Office.



“Township High School District 211 serves the educational needs of the community inspiring all students to successfully contribute to the world.”

Adopted by the Board of Education; August 18, 2016

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

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Lisa Small, Superintendent

Website: adc.d211.org



The Superintendent’s Newsletter is published every 6 weeks throughout the school year for persons interested in James B. Conant, William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools and Higgins Education Center and North Campus alternative schools.

